

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Attention: News Director  
For Immediate Release  
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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
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**TAYLORSVILLE MAN SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS  
FOR VIOLATING FEDERAL CHILD PORNOGRAPHY LAWS**

David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, announced today that **MICHAEL BLACK**, age 54, of Taylorsville, Kentucky, in Spencer County, was sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment, plus supervised release for life following release from prison, for 6 charges of violating federal child pornography laws, including an attempt to produce child pornography. In addition, a special penalty assessment of \$600.00 was also imposed. **There is no parole in the federal judicial system.** Black was previously convicted by a federal jury in January this year.

**Black** had initially been identified by a new Waterford, Ohio, police chief during undercover work on the Internet in 2003. As a result of the Chief's internet chat room discussions with **Black** while posing as a 15-year-old girl in Ohio, **Black** armed with the standard Teddy Bear, a digital camera, and condoms, drove six hours through winter weather and snow to meet "Tina." All of the items in his car were seized, including a laptop computer. **Black** was arrested on January 30, 2004, in the New Waterford area. The next day he called his wife and instructed her to hide the hard drive in the home computer. She did not hide the hard drive. The home computer was also subsequently seized.

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### **Some Images of Child Pornography Introduced at Black's Trial**

Among the many child pornography images in **Black's** collection were the following: United States' Exhibit 38a shows a young female child, clearly under the age of 12 with no breast development and no pubic hair. The image shows the child being vaginally penetrated by a naked erect adult penis. Another image shows the naked pubic area of a toddler with a naked erect adult penis pressed against her naked pubic area, with her small legs spread apart. She is shown naked from the waist up, and there is no breast development. Yet another image shows a preschool female child holding a naked erect adult penis with the child leaning toward the penis with an open mouth. Other images include a young female child being vaginally penetrated by a naked erect adult penis. Several images show children in states of bondage, blindfolded, a child with her head held to perform oral sex on an adult male with ejaculate dripping from her mouth, another crying, and one where a young female child wearing a dog collar lying on her back on a bed while crying with her arm across her eyes as an adult man vaginally penetrates her.

Assistant United States Attorneys Jo E. Lawless and James R. Lesousky prosecuted the case. The Kentucky State Police, New Waterford, Ohio, Police Department, Columbiana County Sheriff's Department, Greenville, Illinois Police Department, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation conducted the investigation..

### **Details of the Investigation and Arrest of Black**

During the trial of **Black**, the jury heard testimony from Dan Haueter, Police Chief, New Waterford, Ohio, who began undercover work on the Internet in 2003 in order to identify and prosecute people who were preying on minors (particularly young girls) for sexual purposes.

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Haueter created an Internet “profile” of a 15-year-old girl named Tina who lived in Ohio, with the screen name “tinagreeneyes2000.” Other evidence presented to the jury included:

On January 24, 2004, Chief Haueter – acting as “tinagreeneyes2000,” entered a Yahoo! Chat room titled “I like older men best.” Chief Haueter testified that it didn’t take very long before “Tina” received a private message from the screen name “dads\_here2003.”

Haueter was able to look at “dads\_here's” profile which included a photograph of the person identified as Michael, age 49. The profile listed Michael’s location as Kentucky – Louisville – Shelbyville. The marital status showed married but looking. According to the profile, Michael was online at the time Chief Haueter checked it.

Chief Haueter had set his computer to record or log any computer messaging in which he might engage. As a result of this setting, Chief Haueter was able to capture or save the instant message communication with “dads\_here” or Michael on January 24. Immediately, “dads\_here” told “Tina” that she was a hottie, that he liked her profile picture, and he wanted to know whether she had ever had sex with an older guy. “Tina” responded that she had never had sex at all, to which “dads\_here” responded “cool” and volunteered that a girl he had met the previous weekend, January 18, who was “Tina’s” age hadn’t had sex either, but that now she had. **Black**, “dads\_here,” admitted to “Tina” that he had met the other girl in the same chat room and that she had lived 5 hours from where he lived. He described how he had driven to meet the other girl, called her on her cell phone, picked her up, and driven her to a motel in a town about 10 miles from where the girl lived. He went on to describe to “Tina” how he had had sex with the other girl.

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Computer messages introduced showed how **Black** continued to talk about the other girl, including the fact that he had taken pictures of her in the motel. “Dads\_here” sent the pictures of the girl to “Tina.” He referred to the girl as “Steen” and told “Tina” that it was short for “Christine.” Haueter and an employee of New Waterford placed a phone call to the cell phone number “dads\_here” had given “Tina” earlier in the chat. The chat text referenced the phone call.

Haueter continued his investigation by chatting with “dads\_here” for several days. The on-line chats between “dads\_here” and “tinagreeneyes” occurred on January 25, January 26, January 27, January 28, and January 29, 2004.

During these communications, “dads\_here” revealed his date of birth, his mailing address in Kentucky, the kind of car he drove, what his wife did for a living, what he did for a living, his middle and last names, and other personal information. He also used a web camera hooked up to his home computer to transmit images of himself to “Tina” in Ohio. In one web camera session, **Black** showed his face. In another session, he sent “Tina” – a person he believed to be 15 years old – images of his erect, naked penis.

In addition to himself, **Black** used his web camera to show “Tina” images of child pornography. The chat texts between “dads\_here” and “Tina” included several instances when “dads\_here” showed “Tina” images of underage children engaging in sexual explicit conduct.

During chats between “dads\_here” and “Tina,” **Black** made plans to travel to Ohio to meet with “Tina.” Chief Haueter – acting as “Tina” – gave **Black** an address on Taylor Avenue in New Waterford as where she lived and they could meet. “Tina” told “dads\_here” that her parents were going to be out of town for the weekend.

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On the morning of Friday, January 30, 2004, **Black** drove approximately 6 hours – through snow and other winter weather – from Kentucky to New Waterford, Ohio. There were undercover phone calls between **Black** and the New Waterford employee who posed as “Tina” on the phone. **Black**’s cell phone bill confirmed these calls. **Black** stopped along the way between Louisville/Taylorsville and New Waterford and purchased a Teddy Bear for “Tina.” He had chatted with “Tina” about bringing her a gift and during one of their phone conversations he told her about the Teddy Bear.

Around 6:00 p.m. on January 30, **Black** arrived in the New Waterford area. Just as he had told “Tina” during their chats, he was driving a white Honda. **Black** was arrested in New Waterford, and the police searched his car and found a cell phone (the one **Black** had been using to talk to “Tina”), a laptop computer, external hard drive for a computer, digital camera, Teddy Bear, bag filled with personal items such as toothpaste, razors, and condoms.

When police interviewed **Black**, he admitted that he visited Yahoo! chat rooms, including “I like older men best.” He admitted that he used the screen name “dads\_here2003” while he was in that chat room. He also admitted that he knew a person on Yahoo! who went by the screen name “Tinagreeneyes,” and that “Tina” told him she was 15. **Black** told the police officers that when he set up his profile on Yahoo! he had been 49 years old and that he had put his picture on his profile. He also told the officers that “tinagreeneyes” had a profile including a picture with her behind a shirt.

**Black** went on to admit that he had met “tinagreeneyes” in the chat room a few days before and that he had asked her whether she liked older guys and whether she had had sex with an older guy. The interview lasted for about 1 ½ hours. The jury heard recordings of **Blacks**’ interview by law enforcement.

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The next morning, on Saturday, January 31, **Black** called his wife at their home in Taylorsville. His wife testified that **Black** called her, told her he had been arrested in Ohio, that the police might be coming to their home, and that she should pull the hard drive from the computer and hide it. **Black**'s wife did not pull the hard drive as instructed. Police seized computers from **Black**'s home and conducted forensic examinations on them. A Kentucky State Police Detective testified that between the computer seized from **Michael Black**'s home and the external hard drive **Black** took with him to Ohio, several hundred images of child pornography were found. **Black** pleaded guilty to charges in state court in Ohio which required **Black** to register as a sex offender. **Black** admitted during a previous hearing in federal court in Louisville that he had not so registered.

At **Black**'s trial in January 2006, the United States introduced two computer diskettes containing numerous images of child pornography retrieved from **Black**'s computers into evidence during the trial (United States' Trial Exhibits 38 and 39 - under seal). Additionally, the United States introduced color photocopies of a sampling of the images on the computer diskettes (United States' Trial Exhibits 38a-d and 39a-w - under seal).

United States' Exhibit 38a shows a young female child, clearly under the age of 12. The child has no breast development and no pubic hair. More telling, however, is the size of the man's hand on her chest and its proportion to her small body. The image shows the child being vaginally penetrated by a naked erect adult penis. United States' Exhibit 38c shows the naked pubic area of a toddler. Her small hands provide further evidence of her young age. The image shows a naked erect adult penis pressed against her naked pubic area, with her small legs spread apart. United States' Exhibit 39g shows a young female child, in all likelihood preschool age. She is shown naked

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from the waist up, and there is no breast development. Her small hands and full cheeks further demonstrate her young age. The image shows the child holding a naked erect adult penis with the child leaning toward the penis with an open mouth. It appears that an adult arm is extended toward her head. United States' Exhibit 39o shows a young female child being vaginally penetrated by a naked erect adult penis. The image also shows the presence of ejaculate in the child's vaginal area. Also, several images show children in states of bondage (*e.g.*, United States' Trial Exhibits 39a, 39f, 39i, and 39j); blindfolded (United States Trial Exhibit 39e shows a child with her head held to perform oral sex on an adult male with ejaculate dripping from her mouth; United States Trial Exhibit 39j shows a female child blindfolded and bound while an unseen person inserts a foreign object into her vagina); and crying (United States Trial Exhibit 39w shows a young female child wearing a dog collar lying on her back on a bed while crying with her arm across her eyes as an adult man vaginally penetrates her).

**- END -**

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